

Key items & events

Legislators fund ConnectND, but put more burden on students

State lawmakers authorized ConnectND project funding at \$20 million in bonding as recommended in the executive budget of Gov. John Hoeven. However, in doing so, the Legislature also approved a conference committee compromise and shifted more of the repayment responsibility to higher education, from state general government.

The ConnectND funds had been allocated according to a 60/40 percent higher education/general government funding formula. Action taken in the waning hours of the 2003 session adjusted that to 71/29 percent. The higher education share of the cost has been covered by a student fee of \$3.50 per semester hour, up to 12 credit hours (\$42) per semester, assessed all students. That fee has now been reduced to \$36 per semester for 2003-2004, but could have been lowered further if the Legislature hadn't shifted more of the burden to higher education. The cost for bringing in ancillary systems that weren't part of the initial ConnectND project hasn't been determined and isn't covered by the student fee.

Short delay

Implementation of PeopleSoft's student financial aid software at the Mayville State University and Valley City State University pilot campuses was deferred about week, but is scheduled to move forward next week. In consideration of campus academic calendars, student records and student financials will be implemented in late June or July.

State Agencies Launching Next Phase – May 19th

The general government project team will kick off the next phase of ConnectND with a gathering on Monday, May 19, at the Heritage Center Auditorium in Bismarck. State agency heads, fiscal officers, information technology coordinators, human resource staff, subject matter experts and anyone else interested in ConnectND are invited to attend the session, scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m.

The purpose of the "Component 4 Kick-off" meeting is to inform state agencies about rollout schedules, resource needs and time lines for the next phase of ConnectND. Information on lessons learned from the pilots during the first phase will also be discussed. Pam Sharp, state project director, will provide an overview of the project and introduce project managers. Implementations accomplished during the initial phase of Connect will be reviewed by Ken Purdy, human resources manager; Chuck Lang, financials manager; and John Wohl, technical lead. Roch Hoedebecke, project director from MAXIMUS consultants, will outline the scope of the next phase and provide an implementation overview including methodology, time line, and roles and responsibilities. The kick-off will conclude with a question and answer session.

Members of the state government team met in Fargo with the higher education project team early this week for a day-long planning session.

Thigpen to turn over steering committee gavel

Bismarck State College President Donna Thigpen has chaired the Higher Education Executive Steering committee since ConnectND's inception 18 months ago. Thigpen is stepping down from the ConnectND role to put more time into a capital fund-raising campaign at BSC. Lee Vickers, president of Dickinson State University, will take over the committee's reins in July.

"We express our deep appreciation to Donna for her leadership and commitment to the project," said Grant Crawford, higher education project director. "She has been a guiding light as we move forward with this important and complex undertaking. We look forward to Donna's continuing support of ConnectND, of course, and to an equally fruitful working relationship with President Vickers."

Thigpen announced the change during a May 9 meeting of the executive steering committee. A day earlier, student representative Josh Askvig expressed to the State Board of Higher Education his appreciation on behalf of North Dakota University System students for Thigpen's ConnectND work.

Pilot sites enter post-production period, other locations plan for implementation

With the initial pilot implementations underway at the Office of Management and Budget, Mayville State University, Valley City State University, and the North Dakota University System board office (human resources management systems only), those sites enter a 90-day post-production period. During this period, project teams continue to examine records, make necessary changes, develop standardized productions, and fine tune security procedures. Also, the higher education team, state team and MAXIMUS have begun planning for the next phases of implementation.

The Information Technology Department, the state's data center, will begin detailed discussions with higher education regarding the shared data environment.

Campus teams share views

Members of the higher education project staff met with campus implementation teams at the Mayville State University and Valley City State University pilot sites last week to discuss "lessons learned" during implementations of ConnectND components thus far.

Discussions centered on what worked, what didn't work, what still needs to happen, what could be done differently and how communications staff might assist. Project personnel are looking at various alternative ways to tweak some procedures as a result of the campus input.

Changes already underway include moving to a monthly IVN update session, using the other IVN times for user group meetings, and changing rollout dates to meet campus schedules – *see related article: [Short Delay](#)*.

Ancillary systems cost estimates sought

The NDUS Administrative Affairs Council has authorized the issuance of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to generate cost estimates for replacing ancillary software systems (parking, housing, universal ID cards and facilities). The current ancillary systems will not be able to function when the current mainframe system is discontinued at the time the NDUS fully migrates to PeopleSoft. The ancillary systems are not yet part of the ConnectND project and funding for them is not currently covered by the student fee, which has been set at \$36 per semester for 2003-2004. A separate funding plan will be determined in the future when better cost estimates are available.

It was payday!

April 23 was payday for MaSU, VCSU, and the NDUS board office and May 1 was payday for general state government

On April 23 the first PeopleSoft paychecks were distributed, as scheduled, to approximately 800 employees at MaSU, VCSU, and the NDUS board office. Along with their paychecks, employees received information on how to read the additional information provided within the new check format.

On May 1, the first PeopleSoft paychecks were distributed, as scheduled, to approximately 7,500 employees within general state government, excluding the Bank of North Dakota.

The Web address for a site illustrating the format of the new checks is: <http://www.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/hrms/understanding-your-paycheck-042203.pdf>. It is also accessible through the ConnectND Web site.

June IVN update

Thurs., June 12 (9-9:50 a.m.)

NOTE: IVN updates are being cut back to a once a month. The alternating weeks will be used for training and smaller-group discussions.

Everyone is invited to attend the live IVN update sessions. Specific locations are indicated on the [calendar](#).

Sessions are captured and recorded through [webstreaming](#). To view a missed session at a later date check the [video archive](#).

Higher Education Board applauds ConnectND work

The North Dakota Board of Higher Education has adopted a resolution commending the effort and commitment involved in the cooperative effort by higher education and state government to implement the ConnectND project. Specifically, the resolution recognizes the personnel working directly or indirectly on the project for their commitment and professionalism.

State Board of Higher Education Resolution on ConnectND

Whereas, robust and efficient administrative systems are a cornerstone of any well-run enterprise, and;

Whereas, the ConnectND project represents a unique and cooperative implementation involving both higher education and state government, and;

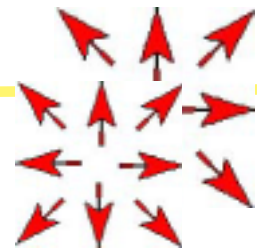
Whereas, North Dakota is the first state in the nation to attempt integration of such a project with as broad a scope, and;

Whereas, a successful implementation will allow us to serve others better, promote continued collegueship, and share best business practice in our processes;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education recognizes:

- 1) the contribution our staff have made to future generations of North Dakotans,
- 2) the sacrifice these staff and their families have made to achieve the very aggressive time lines set out for the project, whether directly involved in the project or indirectly by carrying an extra burden for those who participate directly,
- 3) the commitment to task that all have shown in the face of a very short implementation time line,
- 4) the professionalism demonstrated in reaching decisions that are in the best interest of the state, student and System,
- 5) the financial contributions of the state and students, and
- 6) the diligence applied by all to ensure the job is done right.

Pointers from the Pilots...



May 2003

This section is compiled by the ConnectND communications staff using information gathered from Valley City and Mayville State universities, two of the ConnectND sites, in an effort to share their implementation experiences with the other campuses. We believe that many of the pointers are applicable to state agencies as well.

Of interest to all involved in ConnectND implementation:

- Enjoy and celebrate milestone accomplishments such as generating pay checks, or processing A/P checks successfully.
- Communication, communication, communication with faculty, staff, students.
- They will work with you and understand when delivery schedules are adjusted.

Intended primarily for enrollment services and admissions functions (could be applicable to other areas)

- Evaluate the arsenal of letters you use to communicate with your prospective or current students.
- Identify letters sent to different groups that may have a common message. You may be able to take 20 different letters and create one letter to be used in ConnectND because the merge functions of the system will create the same targeted relationship message you currently have. For example, if there is an application letter created for each major you offer, they may all be consolidated into one letter because ConnectND will pull that program name from the students' record to fill in the letter's merge field.
- While evaluating your letters for consolidation, identify whether your correspondence has to do with prospect recruiting or with the admissions application.
- With the ConnectND process, letters, e-mail, phone, and other methods of communication are categorized under different administrative functions. The focus thus far has been between prospect (PROS), admissions application (ADMA), and event (EVNT), so it will be beneficial for you to categorize your letters now as you get closer to development and "go-live" at your campus.

Comments and suggestions regarding this publication are welcome. We encourage questions about this newsletter or the project. To facilitate this process, you may ask a question electronically through the Web site FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section. It's also a place to view the questions others have asked and the responses of the project teams.



More information, questions or comments: www.nodak.edu/connectnd
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Words & acronyms

May 2003

ERP—“Enterprise Resource Planning” System or “Enterprise Resource Package.” Essentially, it means an administrative software system that covers the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management. While our current administrative systems (commonly known as SAMIS or CICS) were developed long before “ERP” was even thought of, they are essentially our ERP today.

Web-streamed—Recorded live and broadcast real-time via the Internet to those who cannot be at the event location.

About ConnectND

What is ConnectND?

The CONNECT ND project is the implementation of *PeopleSoft's* ERP system that will replace North Dakota's current administrative computer systems. The ERP system will serve as the administrative systems for the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management.

Who is involved in ConnectND?

All of North Dakota State Government, including the North Dakota University System, is involved this project.

How is the ConnectND project organized?

The project has been organized by module (functional area) into three state groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, and Technical) and four higher education groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, Student Administration, and Technical).

Links mentioned

- **Calendar:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/index.php?module=PostCalendar
- **Connect ND:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd
- **MAXIMUS:** www.maximus.com/public/virtual/home
- **North Dakota University System:** www.ndus.nodak.edu
- **PeopleSoft:** www.peoplesoft.com/corp/en/public_index.asp
- **Rollout Schedules (these schedules will reflect changes as they occur):** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=57
- **Video archive:** www.ndsu.nodak.edu/connectndmodules.php?op=modload&name=Downloads&file=index
- **Web-streamed:** www.ndsu.nodak.edu/connect/repository/development/calendarEscalation.pdf

Fyi & updates

What is the current status of the ConnectND project?

In the May 9, 2003 report, the Project Oversight team reported that the project is in postproduction support for the pilot sites and planning for the next components.

How is ConnectND being implemented?

Under the leadership of a State Executive Steering Committee (cochaired by Donna Thigpen, President, Bismarck State College and Pam Sharp, Interim Director, Office of Management and Budget) and with the help of our implementation partner, *MAXIMUS*, the project is being implemented using a five-phased approach:

1. Initiation – Complete
2. Design – Complete
3. Development – 91% Complete
4. Migration – 10/7/02/ to 5/15/03
5. Post Production – 10/7/02 to 8/29/04

When will ConnectND be implemented?

During April, general state government began the process of replacing central payroll, including core human resources and benefits with PeopleSoft's human resources management system; the state's initial pay date was May 1 (see *related article: It was payday!*). In addition, the Office of Management and Budget, Attorney General's Office, Department of Human Services, and Highway Patrol began implementing PeopleSoft's purchasing module.

April's PeopleSoft implementations also included the university system pilot campuses (Mayville and Valley City State Universities). Included in the financial systems rollout were general ledger, accounts payable, purchasing, and grant management and project costing. The human resources management systems rollout on the pilot campuses as well as the NDUS board office consisted of payroll, core human resources, and benefits; with an initial pay date of April 23 (see *related article: It was payday!*). As mentioned in previous articles, the student system rollouts began on the pilot campuses in October 2002 with recruiting and admissions. This continued during April with financial aid.

The *ConnectND Rollout Schedules* contain more specific information related to these rollouts.

Has end-user training been scheduled?

End-user training is being scheduled using a just-in-time approach.